

THE ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT
OF THE
LUNATIC ASYLUM
OF ABERDEEN,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH, 1853.

Read at the General Meeting of Managers held on the 13th June, 1853.

ABERDEEN:
PRINTED BY D. CHALMERS AND COMPANY,
ADELPHI COURT, UNION STREET.

MDCCCLIII.

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1853.

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Wm. Paterson,.... South do. do.	Rev. Wm. Ross,.... Presbytery of Garioch.
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MEDICAL REPORT.

THE annual period which is referred to in the Medical Report required to be laid before the present General Meeting of Managers of the Aberdeen Lunatic Asylum, embracing a term which had elapsed previous to the Reporter's entry on the office of Medical Superintendent, it has been thought best to confine the review of the operations of the Institution to such numerical statements as suffice to exhibit its statistical history during that time. These are afforded in a series of Tables compiled, in a great measure, from the materials left behind by Dr. Campbell, the previous Superintendent, and will be found to give a full and very favourable representation of the efficiency of the Hospital under his management.

At the commencement of the year there were two hundred and fifty patients remaining in the Hospital, of the curability of a great proportion of whose cases an unfavourable estimate was formed ; during the succeeding twelve months ninety-five other cases were added, of a very miscellaneous character, making a gross number of three hundred and forty-five patients, of whom, at the termination of the year, two hundred and seventy-one still continued under the guardianship and treatment of the Institution. Eighteen of the seventy-four removals are attributable to death. Of the remaining fifty-six all but two may be said to have been benefited, forty-two qualified for full emancipation, and twelve so far improved as to allow removal by their friends.

During the progress of the year the number of patients resident in the House kept steadily increasing—the smallest number being at the commencement, and the highest at the termination of the time specified. The mean number resident was two hundred and sixty-three.

The Tables appended are, in most particulars, similar to those in former Reports, and uphold conclusions consistent with prevalent scientific doctrines on the characteristics of the disease. They exhibit the medical results not only of the past but of the thirty-one preceding years ; a classification of the admissions in reference to the districts from which the cases have been sent ; the ages, sex, social condition, and occupation of the patients ; the forms and complications, and the mental, physical, exciting, and predisposing causes, and previous duration of the disease ; a view of the more important features in the recovered cases ; a detailed obituary ; a classification of the cases remaining in the House ; and an appended list of articles of clothing which have been made by its inmates during the past year. The proportion of cures is above that of the former year, and much about the average in such Institutions in this country, while the mortality is somewhat less. Amongst the peculiarities are noticeable a less curability, in the female cases, a greater relative amount of married patients in the Table of social conditions, an entire absence of cases of Dementia in the list of recoveries, and a greater than ordinary proportion of cures amongst older cases. The Reporter has to bear testimony to the excellent working order in which he found all departments of the Hospital on taking charge ; and, in conclusion, begs to return his thanks to the Visiting Managers for their support and encouragement, and to the Consulting Physician, for his cordial co-operation, as also to acknowledge the efficient assistance afforded him by the resident and non-resident officials generally, in the discharge of his duties.

ROBERT JAMIESON, M.D.

TABLES.

NOTE.—In order that the Statistical and Financial Years of the Institution should accord, the Tables in the present Report embrace a period of only Eleven Months, being made up to the 31st March, instead of, as formerly, to the 30th April.

TABLE I.

GENERAL RESULTS OF THE YEAR.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Patients in the Asylum, 1st May, 1852,	123	127	250
Admitted during the year (eleven months),	51	44	95
Under treatment during the year,	174	171	345
Removed during the year:—			
Recovered,	22	20	42
Improved,	8	4	12
Unimproved,	2	0	2
Dead,	10	8	18
Remaining in the Asylum, 31st March, 1853,	132	139	271

TABLE II.

CLASSIFICATION OF ADMISSIONS RELATIVE TO PLACES OF RESIDENCE.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
From Aberdeen and Suburbs,	27	24	51
From other parts of Aberdeenshire,	12	14	26
From more distant localities,	12	6	18
	51	44	95

TABLE III.

SOCIAL CONDITION OF PATIENTS ADMITTED.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Single,	23	24	47
Married,	27	13	40
Widowed,	1	7	8
	51	44	95

TABLE IV.

AGES OF PATIENTS ADMITTED.

							Males.	Females.	Total.
From 10 to 20,	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	0	5
.. 20 to 30,	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	14	24
.. 30 to 40,	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	10	23
.. 40 to 50,	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	14	22
.. 50 to 60,	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	4	17
.. 60 to 70,	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	4
							<hr/> 51	<hr/> 44	<hr/> 95

TABLE V.

OCCUPATIONS OR STATION IN LIFE OF PATIENTS ADMITTED.

M A L E S.

Bank Agent,	-	-	1	Publican,	-	-	1
Brassfounder,	-	-	1	Sailmaker,	-	-	1
Clerks,	-	-	3	Sailor,	-	-	1
Crofters,	-	-	4	Sawyer,	-	-	1
Doctors of Medicine,	-	-	2	School Boy,	-	-	1
Farmers,	-	-	2	School Master,	-	-	1
Farm Servants and Labourers,	-	-	7	Ship's Purser,	-	-	1
Fisher,	-	-	1	Shopkeeper,	-	-	1
Gardeners,	-	-	2	Soldier,	-	-	1
Masons,	-	-	2	Sweep,	-	-	1
Officer in Navy,	-	-	1	Tailor,	-	-	1
Optician,	-	-	1	Toll Keeper,	-	-	1
Paupers,	-	-	4	Watchmaker,	-	-	1
Pensioners,	-	-	2	Weavers,	-	-	2
Plasterer,	-	-	1	Wool-Sorter,	-	-	1
Porter,	-	-	1				

F E M A L E S.

Baker's Wife,	-	-	1	Gentlewomen,	-	-	2
Beadle's Wife,	-	-	1	Housekeeper,	-	-	1
Cabinetmaker's Wife,	-	-	1	Labourers' Wives,	-	-	5
Carpenter's Wife,	-	-	1	Lodging-house Keeper,	-	-	1
Clergyman's Widow,	-	-	1	No Occupation,	-	-	1
Crofters,	-	-	2	Paupers,	-	-	6
Domestic Servants,	-	-	8	Prostitutes,	-	-	2
Factory Workers,	-	-	3	School Mistress,	-	-	1
Farmer's Daughter,	-	-	1	Shopkeeper,	-	-	1
Farmer's Wife,	-	-	1	Soldier's Wife,	-	-	1
Fisherman's Wife,	-	-	1	Weaver's Wife,	-	-	1
Gardener's Wife,	-	-	1				

TABLE VI.

FORM OF INSANITY IN CASES ADMITTED.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Amentia, " - - -	3 - -	0 - -	3
Mania, - - - -	21 - -	18 - -	39
Dementia, - - -	6 - -	2 - -	8
Monomania, - - -	11 - -	7 - -	18
Melancholia, - - -	10 - -	17 - -	27
	<hr/> 51 - -	<hr/> 44 - -	<hr/> 95

TABLE VII.

COMPLICATIONS OF CASES ADMITTED WITH NERVOUS DISEASE.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Epilepsy, with Amentia, - - -	1 - -	0 - -	1
Epilepsy, with Mania, - - -	1 - -	0 - -	1
Paralysis, with Melancholia, - - -	0 - -	1 - -	1
Chorea, with Mania, - - -	1 - -	0 - -	1
Hysteria, with Monomania, - - -	0 - -	1 - -	1
Hypochondriasis, with Monomania, - - -	1 - -	0 - -	1

TABLE VIII.

COMPLICATIONS OF CASES ADMITTED WITH DISEASED IMPULSE.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Suicidal Impulse, with Mania, - - -	3 - -	2 - -	5
Do. with Monomania, - - -	1 - -	2 - -	3
Do. with Melancholia, - - -	7 - -	11 - -	18
Homicidal Impulse, with Mania, - - -	1 - -	0 - -	1

TABLE IX.

CLASSIFICATION OF CAUSES ASSIGNED IN CASES ADMITTED.

Mental cause assigned in - - -	10.52 per cent.
Physical cause assigned in - - -	50.52 ..
Mental and Physical causes assigned in -	16.84 ..
Predisposing cause assigned in - - -	26.31 ..
Exciting cause assigned in - - -	32.62 ..
Predisposing and Exciting causes assigned in	20.00 ..
No cause assignable in - - -	21.07 ..
Hereditary predisposition assigned in -	27.37 ..
Previous attack assigned in - - -	16.84 ..

TABLE X.

CASES ADMITTED SUPPOSED ATTRIBUTABLE TO MENTAL CAUSES.

No.	CAUSE.	Sex.	Age.	CASE.
1	Vexed fraternal affection, -	F.	55	Mania.
2	Vexed maternal affection, -	F.	44	Melancholia.
3	Grief for death of a brother, -	F.	23	Melancholia (suicidal).
4	Sympathetic grief, -	F.	22	{ Melancholia (tending to De- mentia).
5	Disappointment in love, -	F.	24	Monomania (<i>elata</i>).
6	Disappointed pecuniary ex- } pectations, }	F.	49	{ Melancholia (terminating in paralytic Dementia)
7	Pecuniary embarrassment, -	F.	40	Melancholia.
8	Ill-regulated devotional feeling, F.	23		Mania (suicidal).
9	Fright, -	M.	54	Dementia.
10	A quarrel, -	M.	60	Mania.

TABLE XI.

CASES ADMITTED SUPPOSED ATTRIBUTABLE TO PHYSICAL
EXCITING CAUSE.

No.	CAUSE.	Sex.	Age.	CASE.
1	Fever, -	M.	14	Mania, tending to Dementia.
2	Do. -	M.	58	Monomania (hypochondriacal).
3	Do. -	F.	50	Mania.
4	Do. -	F.	20	Melancholia.
5	Convulsions, -	M.	30	Amentia (epileptic).
6	Injury of Head, -	M.	25	Monomania (<i>elata</i>).
7	Do. -	M.	28	Monomania.
8	Childbirth, -	F.	32	Monomania (<i>depressa</i>).
9	Over-nursing, -	F.	29	Mania.
10	Disordered Uterine Function, F.	40		Mania (suicidal).
11	Do. do. -	F.	23	Melancholia.
12	Spermatorrhea, -	M.	21	Dementia.
13	Intemperance, -	M.	29	Mania.
14	Do. -	M.	51	Mania.
15	Do. -	M.	54	Mania.
16	Do. -	M.	46	Mania (homicidal).
17	Do. -	M.	40	Mania (epileptic).
18	Do. -	M.	26	Monomania.
19	Do. -	M.	47	Monomania (<i>depressa</i>).
20	Do. -	M.	36	Melancholia (suicidal).
21	Do. -	F.	26	Mania.
22	Do. -	F.	35	Mania.

TABLE XII.

COMBINED PHYSICAL AND MENTAL CAUSES OF CASES ADMITTED.

No.	MENTAL CAUSE.	PHYSICAL CAUSE.	Sex.	Age.	CASE.
1	Domestic anxiety,	Hered. tendency,	M.	60	Monomania.
2	Do.	Do.	F.	38	Melancholia.
3	Grief, -	Do.	F.	49	Mania.
4	Do. -	Previous attack, -	F.	46	Mania.
5	Vexed maternal affection, }	Hered. tendency,	F.	51	Melancholia.
6	Remorse, -	Dyspepsia, -	M.	40	Monomania (suicidal.)
7	A quarrel, -	Hered. tendency,	M.	60	Monomania.
8	Destitution, -	Do.	F.	41	Mania.
9	Do. -	Do.	F.	50	Melancholia (suicidal).
10	Do. -	Intemperance, -	M.	35	Mania.
11	Do. -	Do.	M.	45	Dementia.
12	Do. -	Do.	F.	23	Mania.

TABLE XIII.

CLASSIFICATION OF ADMISSIONS IN RELATION TO HISTORY, AND
PREVIOUS DURATION OF THE CASE.

1. First attack, and under 3 months' previous duration, 40·00 per cent.
2. First attack, above 3 months, but under 1 year's do., 13·68 „
3. Not first attack, under 1 year's previous duration, 12·63 „
4. Cases above 1 year's previous duration, - 28·42 „
5. Cases of unrecorded previous duration, - 5·27 „

TABLE XIV.

CASES DISCHARGED CURED.

No.	Sex.	Age.	Form of Insanity.	Duration of Disease previous to Admission.	Mental Cause.	Physical Cause.	Duration of Residence.
1	M.	21	Mania, (moral),	1 month,	Disappointment,	-	9 months.
2	M.	27	Mania (moral),	Doubtful,	-	-	7½ years.
3	M.	25	Mania,	3 days,	-	Hereditary tendency,	8 months.
4	M.	40	Mania,	7 days,	-	Intemp. and prev. attack,	2 months.
5	M.	31	Mania,	Unknown,	-	Intemp. and Epilepsy,	2 months.
6	M.	60	Mania,	10 days,	A quarrel,	Epilepsy and prev. attack,	3 months.
7	M.	35	Mania,	2 weeks,	Destitution,	-	2 months.
8	M.	35	Mania,	6 weeks,	-	Intemperance,	7 months.
9	M.	54	Mania,	1 month,	-	Previous attacks,	2 months.
10	M.	31	Mania,	10 days,	-	Intemperance,	2 months.
11	F.	50	Mania (epileptic)	1 month,	-	Hereditary tendency,	5 months.
12	F.	26	Mania,	1 week,	-	Change of life,	1 year and 8 months.
13	F.	50	Mania,	3 months,	-	Intemperance,	3 months.
14	F.	18	Mania,	2 weeks,	-	Fever and hered. tendency,	2 months.
15	F.	21	Mania,	14 days,	Seduction and desertion,	Child-birth,	8 months.
16	F.	22	Mania,	1 month,	Grief,	Previous attack,	14 months.
17	F.	38	Mania (hysterical),	3 months,	-	Previous attack,	15 months.
18	F.	33	Mania (sensorial),	16 weeks,	Grief,	Menstrual disorder,	2 years and 3 months.
19	F.	24	Mania (suicidal),	7 weeks,	Destitution,	Intemperance,	2 years.
20	F.	40	Mania (suicidal),	2 months,	Ill-regulated devotional feeling,	-	3 months.
21	F.	29	Mania,	1 month,	-	Change of life,	2 months.
22	F.	32	Mania,	2 weeks,	-	Nursing and hered. tenden.	6 months.
23	F.	64	Mania,	3 months,	Destitution,	Intemperance,	4 months.
24	M.	62	Monomania (suicidal),	6 weeks,	-	Intemperance,	1 year and 3 months.
						{ Over-abstemiousness and hereditary tendency, -	7 years and 4 months

TABLE XIV.—CONTINUED.

No.	Sex.	Age.	Form of Insanity.	Duration of Disease previous to Admission.	Mental Cause.	Physical Cause.	Duration of Residence.
25	M.	36	Monomania, -	6 weeks,	Anxiety,	-	2½ months.
26	M.	28	Monomania, rent),	2 months,	-	Injury of head,	2 months.
27	M.	60	Monomania (recur-	-	-	Hereditary tendency	3 months.
28	M.	47	Monomania, -	-	-	Intemperance,	2 months.
29	M.	56	Monomania (<i>elata</i>),	-	Destitution,	Intemperance,	3 months.
30	F.	32	Monomania, -	14 months,	-	Fever and hered. tendency,	2 months.
31	M.	36	Melancholia, -	3 weeks,	-	Intemperance,	1 month.
32	M.	45	Melancholia (suicidal),	2 months,	Loss of money,	-	5 months.
33	M.	33	Melancholia (suicidal),	2 months,	-	-	6 weeks.
34	M.	45	Melancholia, -	2 months,	-	-	4 months.
35	M.	60	Melancholia (suicidal),	1 month,	-	Hereditary tendency,	4½ months.
36	M.	35	Melancholia (suicidal),	2 weeks,	-	Previous attack,	3 months.
37	F.	40	Melancholia (suicidal),	2 weeks,	Pecuniary anxiety,	-	6 weeks.
38	F.	52	Melancholia, cal),	-	-	Previous attack,	22 months.
39	F.	33	Melancholia (hysteri-	-	-	-	3 months.
40	F.	26	Melancholia, -	5 days,	-	Child-birth,	7½ months.
41	F.	46	Melancholia (suicidal),	13 years,	-	-	6 months.
42	F.	25	Melancholia, -	2 days,	-	-	1 month.

TABLE XV.

LIST OF DEATHS.

No.	Sex.	Age.	Form of Insanity.	Cause of Insanity.	Length of Residence.	Cause of Death.
1	M.	64	Mania,	Destitution, -	7½ months,	Cancer.
2	F.	37	Mania,	Fright and hered. tendency,	24 days,	Exhaustion.
3	F.	45	Mania,	{ Grief, intemperance, and previous insanity, - }	3 days,	Apoplexy.
4	F.	55	Mania,	Vexed fraternal affection, -	10 days,	Exhaustion.
5	F.	77	Mania,	{ Domestic distress, intem- perance, - }	22½ years,	Natural decay.
6	M.	26	Dementia,	{ Sudden communication of father's death - }	14 months,	General Paralysis.
7	M.	42	Dementia,	Injury of head, -	13 years and 7 months,	Epilepsy.
8	M.	42	Dementia,	Hereditary tendency, -	9 months,	Epilepsy.
9	M.	52	Dementia,	Anxiety and previous attack,	6 years and 8 months,	Paralysis.
10	M.	52	Dementia,	Hereditary tendency, -	22 years and 2 months,	Exhaustion.
11	M.	60	Dementia,	Destitution, -	6 weeks,	General Paralysis.
12	M.	72	Dementia,	- - -	4 years and 7 months,	Natural decay.
13	F.	56	Dementia,	- - -	4 years and 9 months,	Paralysis.
14	F.	22	Melancholia,	Menstrual disorder,	3 months,	Epilepsy.
15	F.	38	Melancholia (suicidal),	Previous attack,	1 year,	Diarrhoea.
16	F.	48	Melancholia,	{ Hereditary tendency and previous attacks, - }	3½ years,	Apoplexy.
17	M.	60	Monomania,	- - -	16 years,	Pneumonia.
18	M.	51	Monomania, with paralysis,	- - -	10½ months,	Apoplexy.

TABLE XVI.

RESULTS, AT PRESENT DATE, OF ADMISSIONS OF LAST 32 YEARS.

Year.	Admitted	Recovered.	Relieved, &c.	Dead.	Remng. 31st Mar. 1853.
1821	55	28	19	6	2
1822	44	21	13	11	0
1823	39	12	15	12	0
1824	38	20	13	3	2
1825	52	23	19	9	1
1826	41	22	10	7	2
1827	36	15	13	7	1
1828	32	16	8	5	3
1829	46	16	18	11	1
1830	59	30	12	15	2
1831	33	13	7	10	3
1832	33	15	5	11	1
1833	42	19	12	10	1
1834	50	19	13	4	5
1835	42	22	7	10	3
1836	41	17	14	6	4
1837	43	17	12	11	3
1838	53	23	11	15	4
1839	74	32	17	18	7
1840	48	25	10	7	6
1841	56	21	15	13	7
1842	51	20	13	8	10
1843	71	37	12	10	12
1844	74	34	19	13	8
1845	93	47	20	19	7
1846	67	30	21	10	6
1847	95	48	19	13	15
1848	83	41	22	11	9
1849	81	33	18	9	21
1850	69	31	9	7	22
1851	85	30	12	9	34
1852	95	24	13	4	54

TABLE XVII.

GENERAL RESULTS FOR THE LAST 23 YEARS.

Year.	Mean number Resident.	Admitted.	Recovered.	Dead.	Recovered per cent. to Admissions.	Recovered per cent. to mean number Resident.	Deaths per cent. to Admissions.	Deaths per cent. to mean number Resident.
1830	102	59	27	8	45.77	26.57	13.56	7.84
1831	100	33	14	12	42.42	14.00	36.36	12.00
1832	106	33	15	10	45.45	14.15	30.30	9.43
1833	107	42	23	14	54.76	21.51	33.33	13.08
1834	114	50	16	6	32.00	14.91	12.00	5.26
1835	116	42	20	11	47.61	18.10	26.19	9.48
1836	109	41	24	5	58.53	22.02	12.19	4.59
1837	113	43	16	8	39.53	14.16	18.60	7.08
1838	124	53	20	14	37.73	16.13	26.41	11.29
1839	140	74	26	10	35.13	18.57	13.51	7.14
1840	144	48	25	19	52.08	17.36	39.58	13.19
1841	150	56	22	10	39.29	14.66	17.86	6.67
1842	152	51	26	11	50.98	17.10	21.57	7.24
1843	167	71	28	12	39.44	17.18	16.90	7.19
1844	183	74	30	7	40.54	16.39	9.46	3.83
1845	200	93	41	13	44.09	20.05	13.98	6.50
1846	213	67	29	12	43.28	13.14	17.91	5.63
1847	222	95	40	23	42.10	18.02	24.21	10.36
1848	229	82	47	17	57.31	20.52	20.73	7.42
1849	229	83	36	16	43.36	15.70	19.27	6.98
1850	230	69	32	17	46.37	13.91	24.91	7.39
1851	245	85	32	20	37.64	13.06	23.53	8.16
1852	263	95	42	18	44.21	15.97	18.94	6.84
Sum and Average of 23 Years.	3758 163.39	1442 62.69	631 27.39	293 12.74	45.64	16.79	20.05	7.84

TABLE XVIII.

ABSTRACT OF DAILY RETURN, SHOWING OCCUPATION, &c. OF PATIENTS ON
31st MARCH, 1853.

		Males.	Females.	Total.
Number of Patients	- - -	132	139	271
„	in Front House,	20	17	37
„	in Back House,	51	52	103
„	in East Wing,	—	70	70
„	in West Wing,	61	—	61
Number of Patients employed	-	58	48	106
In Gardening and Farm Work,		48	0	48
In Needlework,	- -	2	21	23
In Knitting,	- -	0	8	8
In Laundry Work,	- -	0	9	9
In Domestic Work,	- -	8	10	18
Number of Patients in Bed,	- -	2	6	8
„	in Seclusion,	1	3	4
Number of Patients attending Chapel,		48	52	100

TABLE XIX.

ARTICLES OF CLOTHING, &c. MADE AND REPAIRED BY PATIENTS, FROM
1st MAY, 1852, TO 31st MARCH, 1853.

	Made.	Repaired.		Made.	Repaired.
Coats,	15	343	Slips,	38	66
Vests,	24	276	Stays,	4	14
Trousers,	28	477	Caps,	235	200
Jackets,	7	36	Sheets,	48	93
Linders,	198	922	Pillow Slips,	50	75
Drawers,	35	564	Bolster Cases,	12	40
Shirts,	90	761	Bed Ticks,	18	37
Shifts,	158	628	Bolster Ticks,	12	—
Cloth Caps,	12	18	Bed Covers,	12	12
Napkins,	64	—	Towels,	84	36
Stocks,	—	16	Strong Frocks,	2	28
Neckerchiefs,	241	—	Strong Bed Quilts,	20	30
Stockings (pairs),	197	13288	Strong Shirts,	2	—
Gowns,	153	612	Table Cloths,	4	—
Petticoats,	150	726	Crumb Cloths,	4	—
Aprons,	234	546	Carpets,	2	—
Bedgowns,	33	160	Sofa Covers,	—	2
Wrappers,	12	36	Blankets,	—	77

Royal Infirmary, 13TH JUNE, 1853.

At a QUARTERLY GENERAL MEETING of the MANAGERS of the ROYAL INFIRMARY held here this day, the Medical Report of the Lunatic Asylum having been read by Dr. JAMIESON, was approved of, and ordered to be printed and circulated, along with an Abstract of the Income and Expenditure.

ALEXANDER HENDERSON,

CHAIRMAN.

For 11 Months ending 31st March, 1853.

£5012 5 0

£4066 8 1

£5012 5 0

Miss Janet or Jessie Byres, Tonley, £25, less duty, per Mr. Fleming,		
Advocate, - - - - -	- - - - -	£22 10 0
Miss Isabella Robinson, Moss-side, Drumoak, per Rev. Mr. Corbett,		
Drumoak, - - - - -	- - - - -	10 0 0
	<hr/>	£32 10 0

